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TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP) SYSTEMS; NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

Report on toponymic data files for Austria

Paper submitted by Austria**

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1. Two toponymic data files for Austria are already available:

The Ortsverzeichnis (gazetteer of inhabited places: The Gazetteer of Austria).

The Gebäuderegister (register of buildings); it includes a sub-register of all named streets in Austria.

2. Both the above data files are kept by the Austrian Central Statistical Office.

3. A further data file is now under development by the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy (Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen), entitled GEONAM (Collection of geographical names for digital storage and running).

4. Details are described below.

Ortsverzeichnis (Gazetteer of Austria)

5. The names of inhabited places and their statistical data are collected at the time of the Census, which takes place in every first year of a decade. Partly inhabited places are revised also between censuses and their names are partly derived from the official Austrian Map 1:50,000.

6. The Ortsverzeichnis is published after each Census in eight volumes for each "province" (only one volume for Vienna and Lower Austria) and one register-book for all names. The last Ortsverzeichnis was published after the Census of 1981; the next one will be published after the Census of 1991 (i.e. in 1993 and 1994).

7. The Ortsverzeichnis exists in the form of a data file from which not only the published version, but also printed versions for the whole of Austria or parts of it or similar versions on electronic data-carriers (discs, tapes) may be obtained.

Gebäuderegister (register of buildings)

8. The Austrian Central Statistical Office runs this register of the 1.8 million buildings including a sub-register for the 73,000 named streets in the cities, towns and other inhabited places. These names are updated and correspond to those in the house-address register of the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy.

GEONAM: toponymic data file

9. The Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy, among other duties, carries out the topographical survey and production of official maps. The basic map, at 1:50,000 scale, is maintained at intervals of seven years. In the course of maintenance of these maps, under the working-title GEONAM, the geographical names are collected for digital storage and running of these data. The

following parameters were integrated within the data file during the first (and current) phase:

All geographical names

Number of map sheet

Code of administrative district

Type and size of script

Height above sea-level.

10. In a second phase, the following additional parameters are designated for collection:

Coordinates of situation

Information about appearance in other maps developed by the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy

Reference to alterations

Remarks.

11. The goals of GEONAM are the following:

(a) Variable possibilities for information according to different order and scale-criteria;

(b) Easier treatment of names for topographers and cartographers (automatic positioning of script, easier maintenance, consistent spelling in all official maps);

(c) To be a building block for a topographical information-system.

12. At present 60,000 names have been collected during the first phase of development: these are half the number to be collected. This phase will end in 1995; the beginning of the second phase cannot yet be specified.

13. A further toponymic data file referring mostly to names outside Austria is the "Toponymic data file on Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe of the Austrian Institute of Eastern and South-East European Studies". A separate paper is presented on this subject (E/CONF.85/L.15).

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